



August 31, 2004

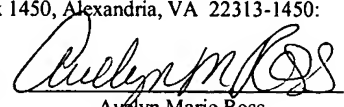
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450:

August 31, 2004  
Date

  
Avelyn Marie Ross

**MAIL STOP AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: *U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/055,726 "A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PREVENTING NITROGEN INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS" by John R. Rhodes; Confirmation No. 8318 Attorney Docket No. SPE503/4-6CIPUS*

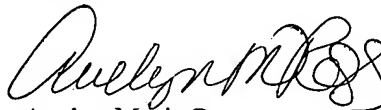
Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced patent application is:

1. Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of August 24, 2004; and
2. A return postcard. Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of these documents.

Should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from VINSON & ELKINS L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS.

Respectfully submitted,



Avelyn Marie Ross  
Reg. No. 51,174

1817:5588

Enclosures

467344\_1.DOC



1743  
Bhu

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

**Spectro Analytical Instruments**

International Serial No.: **10/055,726**

Filing Date: **January 23, 2002**

For: **A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
PREVENTING NITROGEN  
INTERFERENCE IN PYRO-  
ELECTROCHEMICAL METHODS**

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Group Art Unit: 1743

Examiner: Yelena G. Gakh

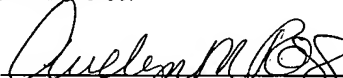
Atty Dkt: **SPE503/4-6CIPUS**

Confirmation No.: 8318

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August 31, 2004  
Date

  
Evelyn Marie Ross

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF  
NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT OF AUGUST 24, 2004**

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

This paper is submitted in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of August 24, 2004, for which the reply date is September 24, 2004. This paper is thus believed to be timely filed. No fees are believed to be due with the filing of this paper, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 22-0365/SPE503/4-6CIPUS.